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## Russian Federation

**Post:** Moscow

### Fishery Sector Update

**Report Categories:**

Fishery Products

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**Report Highlights:**

Russia imports of fish and seafood declined by 8 percent during January-September 2009, as compared to the same period last year. The decline is attributed to larger domestic harvest combined with an overall decline in consumption due to the effects of the world financial crisis in the Russian economy. However, imports of salmon species increased despite this year's larger harvest of salmon in the Far East. The increase is attributed to firm demand for the product in the European part of Russia as the economy begins to recover from the economic downturn.

**General Information:**

**Trade Update**

According to the Russian Federal Customs Service, Russia's total imports during January – September 2009 reached \$115 billion, a drop of 43 percent compared to the same period of 2008. Russia's import share in agricultural and food products and raw material is estimated at 17.7 percent. During the same period, overall Russia's import of fish and seafood declined by 8 percent and reached 545,000 MT, and \$970.6 million in value.

However, imports of pink salmon and trout increased by nearly 8 percent to 93,500 MT for the same period. Analysts have revised their forecast for salmon imports in 2009 to 125,000 MT. Trade sources attributed higher imports of salmon to an overall increase in domestic consumption of food in general.

However, analysts continue to forecast for 2010 a continued drop in the share of imported fish in the overall consumption of fish and seafood from 33 percent to 28-30 percent as the result of government initiatives to develop Russia's fishery sector and improving distributional channels.

Russian fishermen harvested 300,000 MT more fish between January-October, 2009, in comparison with the same period in 2008. Increased catch is attributed to larger harvest for cod, herring, plaice and some other fish species. The forecast for CY 2009 Russia's total fish and seafood harvest is 3.45 million MT, including 540,000 MT of salmon.

According to press reports from the Far East, the Russian government recently allocated 3.5 billion rubles (\$117 million) for the development of fishery sector in 2010-2012 in Kamchatka Peninsula. Currently Kamchatka fishery sector's output is estimated at 50 percent of the total industrial production in the region, fish and seafood share in export of food products is 90 percent. The major constraint for the sector's development is insufficient capacity of the coastal infrastructure, and lack of value added processing facilities. The 3-year program is designed to increase fish catch by 850,000 MT by 2012; fish processing - by 775,000 MT; and boost coastal production of value-added fish products by 11,000 MT. In addition, the local administration aims to reduce the export share of low-added process products to 76 percent, and increase average per capita consumption of fish and seafood in the region to 31 kilos. The program foresees 2,000 additional employment spots in the sector by 2012.

**Table 1: Russia: Imports of Fish and Seafood (HTS 03), January-September 2007-2009, in million US\$.**

HS	Description	2007	2008	2009
Total	The World	129669.4	192723.0	106646.9
	03 Fish And Seafood	1098.5	1383.4	1083.9
0303	Frzn Fish,Not Fillets	467.6	514.0	445.0

0302	Fresh Fish,Not Fillet	184.7	277.8	262.9
0304	Fillet,Othr Fish Meat	221.8	313.7	225.1
0306	Crustaceans	131.0	168.0	94.1
0307	Other Seafood	49.3	64.5	27.2
0305	Fish,Dried,Salted Etc	41.2	39.6	25.1
0301	Live Fish	3.0	5.9	4.6